

28 September 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : DCI Dinner with a Human Rights Theme

1. A dinner-discussion with human rights as the theme could provide the DCI and his guests with a stimulating evening. The topic lends itself to a diversity of opinion as a concept, as a general foreign policy issue, and as a problem in relations with a number of countries. With participation by articulate people experienced in foreign affairs, we would be all but guaranteed a lively and perhaps a heated exchange. The topic is anything but dull.

2. The objective of such a session ought to be primarily educational and social rather than "operational." Consensus might emerge from such an evening about new directions for intelligence analysis (or even collection) in support of US human rights policy, but we should not expect this. Human rights is a problem for policymakers rather than intelligence analysts, and the small number of people here concerned with the issue already know what is expected of them. Some DDI specialists suspect, moreover, that the administration's enthrallment with the human rights theme is waning and that the Agency must take pains to stay out of the bureaucratic conflicts that surround it.

3. Despite these cautions, I believe that human rights is an appropriate matter for the DCI to discuss off the record with a small group including several luminaries from outside. General foreign affairs specialists like [REDACTED] Ray Cline, etc, most likely could make useful contributions especially on the conceptual plane. A meeting like this one would also provide us an opportunity to invite some prominent academic administrators like Peter Krogh Dean of Georgetown's School of Foreign Services.

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4. Other names have been suggested. Patt Derian, the Human Rights Coordinator at State, and her deputy Mark Schneider are certainly well versed from the policy perspective. Similarly,

Jessica Tuchman of the NSC staff works primarily on human rights matters. They could all be expected to be outspoken advocates of a strong and persistent US human rights policy. My own feeling is that we should not include them. William J. Butler, President of the American Association of the International Commission of Jurists, Rita Hauser, former US representative to the UN Human Rights Commission, David Hawk of Amnesty International, Roberta Cohen of the International League for Human Rights, and Marilyn Haft who works for Midge Costanza at the White House on domestic human rights also have been suggested.

5. I have been able to dredge up the name of only one academic with a consuming interest in the human rights theme. Vernon Van Dyke of the University of Iowa is a political scientist who published Human Rights, the US, and the World Community in 1970. There are of course, many ways to proceed with a human rights dinner. Cord Meyer, the Agency's human rights coordinator, has a number of ideas worth considering. He suggested we include a Soviet emigre who would focus on the USSR. I am available to discuss this further with you as you wish.



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